

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project No. 3065-007]

**Electro Ecology, Inc.; Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment**

July 21, 1997.

An environmental assessment (EA) is available for public review. The EA is for an application to amend the Wappingers Falls Hydroelectric Project. The application is to install a new 25 kW turbine on a new 20-inch-diameter minimum flow release pipe. The new pipe will be used to release the project's minimum flow to the bypass reach. The new release pipe will replace an existing, smaller-diameter pipe which does not have a turbine attached to it. The EA finds that approval of the application would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. The Wappingers Falls Hydroelectric Project is located on Wappinger Creek in Dutchess County, New York.

The EA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Copies of the EA can be viewed at the Commission's Reference and Information Center, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Copies can also be obtained by calling the project manager, Pete Yarrington, at (202) 219-2939.

**Lois D. Cashell,**  
*Secretary.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY****Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

[Project Nos. 4678-019, 4679-022]

**Power Authority of the State of New York; Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment**

July 21, 1997.

A draft environmental assessment (DEA) is available for public review. The DEA was prepared for New York Power Authority's (licensee) application to operate the Crescent and Vischer Ferry Hydroelectric Projects in a run-of-river mode.

In summary, the DEA examines the environmental impacts of four alternatives for operating the Crescent and Vischer Ferry Projects: (1)

Licensee's proposed action: run-of-river operation; (2) licensee's initial proposed action: limited ponding; (3) the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's proposed action: run-of-river with reservoir drawdown; and (4) no-action. These alternatives are described in detail on pages six and seven of the DEA.

The DEA recommends that the licensee operate the projects in a run-of-river mode in accordance with the licensee's proposed action alternative. The DEA concludes that implementation of this alternative would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

This DEA was written by staff in the Office of Hydropower Licensing (OHL). As such, the DEA is OHL staff's preliminary analysis of the licensee's recommendation for operation of the Crescent and Vischer Ferry Projects. No final conclusions have been made by the Commission regarding this matter.

Should you wish to provide comments on the DEA, they should be filed within 30 days from the date of this letter. Comments should be addressed to: Ms. Lois D. Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426. Please include the project numbers (4678-019 and 4679-022) on any comments filed.

**Lois D. Cashell,**

*Secretary.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[OPPTS-400115; FRL-5733-3]

**Request for Nominations to the Toxics Data Reporting Committee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice of request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** EPA is inviting nominations of candidates to consider for appointment to fill vacancies on the Toxics Data Reporting (TDR) Committee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT). Nominations will be accepted until 5 p.m. EST, August 18, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit nominations to: Cassandra Vail, Designated Federal Official, Office of Pollution Prevention

and Toxics, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Stop 7408, 401 M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michelle Price at 202-260-3372, e-mail: price.michelle@epamail.epa.gov for specific information regarding the TDR Committee and the stakeholder dialogue.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NACEPT is a federal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. Law 92-463. NACEPT provides advice and recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on a broad range of environmental policy issues. The TDR is a committee created under the auspices of NACEPT.

On April 22, 1997, EPA finalized a rule under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) section 313 adding seven new industry sectors to the Toxics Release Inventory program. These newly added industry groups include: metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities, commercial hazardous waste treatment, chemicals and allied products-wholesale, petroleum bulk terminals and plants-wholesale, and solvent recovery services. These are all industry sectors which will provide significant information on TRI chemicals and which are engaged in activities directly related to the support of manufacturing activities currently covered under TRI. Certain facilities within these industry groups will begin to report to TRI for activities conducted during the 1998 calendar year with reports submitted by July 1, 1999.

In finalizing the industry expansion rule, the Vice President announced that EPA would initiate an intensive stakeholder process to comprehensively evaluate the current reporting forms and reporting practices relating to the TRI program. The goals of this process will be to improve the type of right-to-know information available to communities and to help streamline right-to-know reporting to ease the paperwork burden for businesses affected by the requirements. EPA plans to use the TDR Committee under NACEPT as one avenue to gain input from stakeholders on this issue. Below are some possible topics for discussion in the TDR Committee:

- Format of the Form R.
  - Nomenclature used in the Form R.
  - Opportunities for burden reduction in both the Form R and Form A.
  - Additional clarification of the elements in the Form R.
  - EPA's presentation of the data in public information documents.
- EPA expects to receive specific recommendations from NACEPT for